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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/005W			

-----A04E47 171217Z /22

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7636
INFO NSC WASHDC
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 006423

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
LONDON FOR CGURNEY
PARIS FOR BWILLIAMS

NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER
PASS USAID FOR AFR/SD - DWELLER, AND AFR/SA - CPALMA,
NNEWMAN, A/AID RMCCALL, DAA/AFR VNEWTON
PASS USTR - ROSA WHITAKER

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/17/10
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [EAGR](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: UNDP HOLDS FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH THE DONOR
COMMUNITY ON THE LAND REFORM PROCESS IN ZIMBABWE.

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TOM MCDONALD FOR REASONS 1.5 (B)
AND (D).

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN HARARE, VICTOR ANGELO, HOSTED A FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE LOCAL DONOR COMMUNITY ON NOVEMBER 9. THE PURPOSE WAS TO ALLOW THE DONOR COMMUNITY TO RESPOND TO THE DRAFT UNDP MISSION REPORT ON THE LAND REFORM PROCESS IN ZIMBABWE, AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS HOW THE UNDP AND DONOR COMMUNITY COULD MOVE THE DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE (GOZ) AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ON THE LAND REFORM PROCESS IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION WITHOUT REWARDING LAWLESSNESS. THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MUCH OF THE CRITICISM OF THE MISSION REPORT REGARDING HISTORICAL INACCURACY AND A BIAS AGAINST THE ROLE OF THE DONOR COMMUNITY IN THE LAND REFORM PROCESS IN ZIMBABWE WAS AN ACCURATE CRITIQUE OF THE REPORT. A MAJORITY OF THE DONOR REPRESENTATIVES AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT SUPPORT THE LAND REFORM PROCESS IN ZIMBABWE UNTIL THE GOZ RESPECTS THE RULE OF LAW AND ENDS THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS. THE DANISH AMBASSADOR TOLD THE GROUP THAT THE DANISH MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION HAD MADE CLEAR TO PRESIDENT MUGABE THAT THERE WAS NO DONOR CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE GOZ, BUT THAT A RETURN TO THE RULE OF LAW AND A TRANSPARENT LAND REFORM PROCESS WERE PREREQUISITES FOR

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DANISH ASSISTANCE TO THE GOZ. AMBASSADOR MCDONALD PROPOSED THAT A POSSIBLE WAY TO MOVE FORWARD ON LAND REFORM WOULD BE FOR THE DONOR COMMUNITY TO SEND AN INFORMAL DELEGATION TO VISIT THE PROVINCE OF MIDLANDS WHERE THE GOVERNOR AND COMMERCIAL FARMERS ARE OPEN TO DIALOGUE AND LOCAL SOLUTIONS THAT MIGHT MORE CLOSELY FOLLOW THE 1998 DONORS' CONFERENCE GUIDELINES ARE BEING CONSIDERED. WHILE SOME RESERVATIONS WERE EXPRESSED, THE DONORS AS A WHOLE AGREED THAT THIS WAS A WORTHY INITIATIVE TO FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

UNDP HOSTS DONOR COMMUNITY MEETING

[1](#)2. (C) THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR VICTOR ANGELO HOSTED A DONOR COMMUNITY MEETING ON NOVEMBER 9 FOR THE AMBASSADORS OF 22 DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, THE DIRECTOR OF USAID, THE COUNSELOR OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID), THE EUROPEAN UNION REPRESENTED BY THEIR LEAD TECHNICAL OFFICER, AND THE

WORLD BANK DEPUTY RESREP. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS FOR RESREP ANGELO TO RECEIVE DONORS' REACTIONS TO THE DRAFT UNDP MISSION REPORT ON THE LAND REFORM PROCESS IN ZIMBABWE, AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS HOW THE UNDP AND DONOR COMMUNITY COULD MOVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOZ OVER THE LAND REFORM PROCESS IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION. THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR ALSO INFORMED THE DONORS THAT HE HAD MET WITH HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS OF THE GOZ REGARDING THE UNDP DRAFT REPORT AND HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO THEM THAT FOR THE UNDP TO SUPPORT THE GOZ LAND REFORM PROGRAM, IT

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WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE LEGAL, CREDIBLE, AND IMPLEMENTABLE. WHEN ASKED BY THE ASSEMBLED DONORS WHAT HE MEANT BY THESE WORDS, THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR ANSWERED THAT "LEGAL" MEANT LEGAL, "CREDIBLE" MEANT THAT IT HAS TO BE BASED ON A WIDE NATIONAL CONSENSUS, AND "IMPLEMENTABLE" MEANT THAT WHAT IS OCCURRING NOW IS NOT IMPLEMENTABLE.

DONOR CRITICISM OF THE UNDP DRAFT REPORT

13. (C) A NUMBER OF ATTENDEES SPOKE STRONGLY ABOUT THE HISTORICAL INACCURACY OF THE DRAFT REPORT REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE DONOR COMMUNITY ON LAND REFORM IN ZIMBABWE, AS WELL AS THE APPARENT BIAS IN THE REPORT AGAINST THE DONOR COMMUNITY AS A POSITIVE FORCE IN THE LAND REFORM PROCESS IN ZIMBABWE. THE COUNSELOR FOR DFID STRESSED THAT THE REPORT MADE NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ALL THE SUPPORT THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS PROVIDED TO LAND REFORM AND RESETTLEMENT SINCE ZIMBABWE'S INDEPENDENCE. THE WORLD BANK DEPUTY RESREP SAID WHAT WAS VERY DISTURBING ABOUT THE REPORT WAS THAT IT LACKED THE PERSPECTIVE OF STAKEHOLDERS, AND THAT IT PORTRAYED THE GOZ AND THE DONOR COMMUNITY AS BEING IN OPPOSITION TO ONE ANOTHER

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	EUR-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/005W			
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R 171029Z NOV 00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7637
INFO NSC WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 HARARE 006423

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OVER LAND REFORM. THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CRITICISM THE UNDP HAD RECEIVED REGARDING THE DRAFT REPORT WAS LARGELY VALID AND THAT CHANGES WOULD BE MADE TO THE REPORT.

DONOR PREREQUISITES FOR MOVING FORWARD ON LAND REFORM

14. (C) RESIDENT COORDINATOR ANGELO QUERIED THE ASSEMBLED GATHERING IF ANYONE HAD CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS ON HOW TO MOVE THE DISCUSSION ON LAND REFORM WITH THE GOZ IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION. A NUMBER OF AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS SPOKE ON THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE GOZ

RETURN TO THE RULE OF LAW AND A TRANSPARENT AND
EQUITABLE LAND REFORM PROCESS THAT ADHERES TO THE TENETS
OF THE 1998 DONORS' CONFERENCE AGREEMENT. THE GERMAN
AMBASSADOR AND THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER BOTH
SPOKE FORCEFULLY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE
PREREQUISITES, BEFORE THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS COULD
AGAIN PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE LAND REFORM PROCESS IN
ZIMBABWE.

15. (C) THE DANISH AMBASSADOR TOLD THE GROUP THAT AT THE
NOVEMBER 7 MEETING BETWEEN THE DANISH MINISTER FOR
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, JAN TROJBORG, AND PRESIDENT
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MUGABE, THE MINISTER HAD TRIED TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE
PRESIDENT THAT THERE WAS NO DONOR CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE
GOZ AND LAND REFORM IN ZIMBABWE, AND THE DANISH
GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING TO ASSIST ZIMBABWE ON LAND
REFORM. HOWEVER, HE ALSO STRESSED THAT THE RETURN TO
THE RULE OF LAW ON OCCUPIED FARMS AND A TRANSPARENT LAND
REFORM PROCESS BASED ON THE 1998 DONORS' CONFERENCE WERE
PREREQUISITES FOR DANISH ASSISTANCE.

AMBASSADOR MCDONALD PROPOSES A WAY FORWARD

16. (C) AMBASSADOR MCDONALD THEN PROPOSED THAT A WAY TO
BREAK THE CURRENT IMPASSE AND MOVE THE DISCUSSIONS ON
LAND REFORM FORWARD WOULD BE TO VISIT SITES IN MIDLANDS
PROVINCE WHERE THE AMBASSADOR IN AN EARLIER TRIP AND
USAID OFFICIALS IN JUST THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAD VISITED
WITH GOVERNOR CEPHAS MSIPA AND COMMERCIAL FARMERS WHO
HAD BEEN WORKING TOGETHER CONSTRUCTIVELY ON LAND REFORM
IDEAS. THE GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE USAID OFFICIALS
WHO VISITED THIS PROVINCE IS THAT THERE IS A REASONABLE
SET OF ACTORS OF GOODWILL, INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR, WHO
MIGHT DEVELOP THEIR OWN COMMUNITY INITIATIVES. THE
AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT AN INFORMAL DELEGATION FROM
DONOR EMBASSIES AND THE UNDP VISIT THESE SITES IN
MIDLANDS AND SEE FIRSTHAND WHETHER THERE ARE
COMPLEMENTARY NON-GOVERNMENTAL APPROACHES TO LAND REFORM
IN THIS PROVINCE THAT THE DONOR COMMUNITY COULD CONSIDER
SUPPORTING. THE AMBASSADOR MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WOULD
BE A LOOK SEE MISSION WITH NO COMMITMENTS BEING MADE AND
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THAT THE UNDERTAKING WOULD BE UNDP LED. WHILE THERE
WERE SOME RESERVATIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE
ASSEMBLED DONOR COMMUNITY CONCERNING THE GOZ'S
WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW SUCH APPROACHES, A CONSENSUS WAS
REACHED TO SEND A SMALL DELEGATION TO MIDLANDS PROVINCE
AND REPORT BACK TO THE UNDP AND THE DONOR COMMUNITY AT A
FUTURE MEETING.

17. (C) COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR FROM THIS MEETING THAT
THERE REMAINS A GREAT DEAL OF SKEPTICISM AND CONCERN
WITHIN THE DONOR COMMUNITY REGARDING THE FINAL VERSION
OF THE UNDP MISSION REPORT ON THE LAND REFORM PROCESS IN
ZIMBABWE. THERE ALSO REMAINS A STRONG CONSENSUS AMONG
THE DONORS, THAT UNTIL THE GOZ UPHOLDS THE RULE OF LAW
AND SHOWS READINESS TO RETURN TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE
1998 DONOR CONFERENCE, THERE IS LITTLE OR NO ROOM TO
MANEUVER ON THIS ISSUE. JUDGING BY THE DONOR
REPRESENTATIVES RESPONSES, WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT
AMBASSADOR MCDONALD'S PROPOSAL MAY OFFER A WAY FOR THE
UNDP TO TAKE THE LEAD ON FINDING A MECHANISM FOR
REENGAGING PRESIDENT MUGABE AND THE GOZ ON THE LAND
REFORM ISSUE. END COMMENT.

MCDONALD

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